

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2521

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJ: REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL

1. REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE IN TURKISH PRESS. TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION ON FEBRUARY 20 QUOTES PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AS HAVING SAID THAT: "I HOPE THAT THIS DECISION WILL PASS THROUGH THE CONGRESS WITHOUT CONDITIONS AND IN AN IMPROVED FORM. WHAT WE SEEK IS TOTAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE U.S. HAS NO RIGHT OR REASON TO IMPOSE AN EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THE EMBARGO WILL SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. IT WILL SPOIL THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. WE CONSIDER IT AS AN INJUSTICE AND HOSTILITY AGAINST TURKEY. WE HOPE THAT THE U.S. SENATE AND CONGRES WITH COMMON SENSE AND THE USA WHICH SELLS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARMS TO 32 COUNTRIES WILL PUT AN END TO SUCH A HOSTILE

ATTITUDE AGAINST TURKEY WHO HAS BEEN ITS FRIEND FOR
SO MANY YEARS."

2. NILUFER YALCIN WRITES IN MILLIYET THAT THE
CONDITION OF EXTENDING GRANT AID DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER
OF TURKISH TROOPS IN CYPRUS HAS CAUSED AN UNFAVORABLE
REACTION IN ANKARA POLITICAL QUARTERS. SOME TURKISH
OFFICIALS, NILUFER WRITES, CONSIDER THAT THE HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE BILL AS SLIGHTLY
BETTER THAN BAD, BUT IT STILL DOES NOT REFLECT AN
ATTITUDE AND MENTALITY THAT WILL ENSURE A STABLE AND
CONSISTENT VALID DEFENSE COOPERATION WHICH IS VITAL FOR
TWO NATO ALLIES. SUCH A COOPERATION REQUIRES THE
RESTORATION OF US-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS AT THEIR
PREVIOUS LEVEL, ESTABLISHING A BALANCE IN MUTUAL COMMIT-
MENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT UNRELATED TO THE CYPRUS
SITUATION. BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE, HOWEVER, HAVE
IMPOSED CONDITIONS ON GRANT AID AND FMS SALES AND
CREDITS. THESE CONDITIONS APPEAR TO BE INAPPROPRIATE
IN US-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONS AND SMACK OF
PRESSURE TO SECURE A RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION
FAVORABLE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. ACCORDING TO
YALCIN, TURKISH POLITICAL QUARTERS ARE ALSO NOTING
THAT THE US EXTENDS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT SALES
AND LOANS TO NON-NATO COUNTRIES INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA.

3. AMERICAN SOURCES, HOWEVER, YALCIN POINTS OUT, ARE
SAYING THAT THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
ACTION "IS A NEW AND ADVANCED STEP AND WILL PLAY AN
IMPORTANT PART IN THE NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION AND
IN THE SIGNING OF THE TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE AGREE-
MENT." YALCIN NOTES THAT AMERICANS TRACE THE DIMINISHING
RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO TURKEY IN VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL
LEGISLATION
AND POINT OUT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON GRANT
AID SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED HOSTILE TO TURKEY SINCE

THE HOUSE HAS STIPULATED THE TERMINATION OF ALL GRANT
ASSISTANCE WITHIN THREE YEARS. ACCORDING TO YALCIN, AMERICANS ARE
SAYING THAT THE BILL HAS NOT YET BEEN PASSED, IT MAY BE IMPROVED,
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AND ITS FINAL FORM WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL ACTION BY THE
JOINT SENATE-HOUSE COMMITTEE.
MACOMBER

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